

Mobile drug clinic for Hill rejected

Hill and Dale view evolves

We hope you find this first issue of THE POTRERO VIEW informative. It will appear the first of every month with news and views about life on the Hill.

A regular neighborhood newspaper is the first step in the effort to bring this community together in order to solve our common problems. It will provide facts about events and issues as well as a forum where views of various segments of the community may be expressed. Letters will be printed as space allows. All this will help us to get to know each other better and to produce a better understanding of urban problems as they exist on Potrero Hill.

THE POTRERO VIEW is a non-profit venture, a product of volunteer help from interested residents of the Hill, who for a long time have felt the need for a neighborhood newspaper. Its maintenance depends on community support.

This effort is a continuation and expansion of the work of Bill and Jodie Dawson who for six months have produced "Hills and Dales," a newsletter for the Hill. Now with some additional volunteer help, we've been able to put out this first issue of THE POTRERO VIEW. Read it and tell us what you think.

Drug figures meaningless

Smack, speed, reds, grass, they're all easy to come by these days throughout San Francisco, and Potrero Hill is no exception. On street corners, in school yards and parks deals are made, drugs are passed day or night.

Talk to anyone on the Hill and he'll admit to a serious drug problem. Some emphasize the addiction to heroin; others express concern over the use of pills, barbiturates and amphetamines, by junior high kids. "Grass" it seems is the least of our worries, except that when it "dries up,"

Local addict speaks

Bill's hooked on heroin, but he manages to support his habit without stealing. At least he manages when he can control it at the \$30 a day level.

This 33-year-old native San Franciscan, a former resident of Potrero Hill, told the VIEW about life as an addict. He consented to the interview because "people know nothing about drugs and so there is no place for an addict to get long term treatment."

"People think we drug addicts are freaks, and maybe we are. But if I didn't tell you I was an addict, you wouldn't know."

Why did he take drugs?

"I take heroin because in a way it makes my life easier, but that's really not true because look how crapped up my life is. I guess I really need it."

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youth turn to harder stuff.

While there is agreement that a serious drug problem exists on Potrero Hill, there are simply no hard statistics on the amount and type of drug use.

Dr. Barry Ramer, director of the Center for Special Problems, operated by the city's Department of Health, estimates that there are 9,000 heroin addicts in San Francisco, 1,500 of them juveniles.

On the basis of a simple proportional comparison, that estimate would place 150 addicts on the Hill, though socio-economic conditions here suggest that Potrero Hill has more than its share of addicts.

This is substantiated by figures supplied by those close to the problem here. Dr. George Roth, physician at the 20th Street Medical Center, says 200 is a low estimate. He has personally treated 50 Hill addicts.

Mike Harrison, a counselor at the New Society Youth Club estimates that heroin addiction runs closer to 400. Harrison, who has considerable

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3rd Street site favored in 6-4 vote

Plans to locate the proposed Potrero Hill drug clinic in a mobile unit parked in the vicinity of the housing projects were nixed Tuesday because of fear that city hall red tape would delay the project indefinitely.

Members of the neighborhood drug clinic study committee voted six to four to abandon the mobile clinic idea in favor of a more readily available site at 19th and Third Streets.

In earlier meetings the Third Street location had been deemed undesirable by some because of its proximity to the 20th Street police station.

Some residents feared that addicts in need of clinic services might hesitate to use them if there was any risk of police surveillance.

Others believe that the need for the clinic is so urgent that immediate availability is an important consideration.

This view was strengthened by testimony from Lt. Robert McFarland who pointed out that Synanon had run a drug program in that same area without police interference.

The committee—a group of residents and neighborhood workers appointed by Police Chief Al Nelder—will discuss final plans for renting the Third Street site Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission room of the Public Library at Civic Center. The meeting is open to the public.

The Third Street location could be made available at once for a rental of \$1,500 a month. Observers believe that those residents who have been opposing the clinic might withdraw their objections if the Third Street locale is selected.

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Community tree planting program gets under way

More trees are coming to Potrero Hill thanks to a street tree project begun by the Potrero Green Hill Committee of the Boosters and Merchants Association.

The committee has trees, planting soil and supporting poles available, so that any homeowner, landowner or merchant may plant trees in front of his home or business with a minimum of expense and inconvenience. City sidewalk cutting and removal services have been arranged.

For a phone call, \$6.50 and a little digging one can have a

six foot tree, either Myoprum lsetum (Guano) or Eucalyptus ficifolia (Scarlet Gum), out front. Volunteer work crews are available to help.

Volunteers are needed to serve as block captains who will contact neighbors, receive applications for sidewalk preparation and take tree orders.

Anyone who wants to serve as a block captain, work in a planting crew or order a tree may contact Virginia March, 647-3414, or Daniel Werner, VAG-5448.

Let a thousand trees grow!



Possible sites of proposed clinic at 19th and Third Streets

Assault wave hits elders

A sharp increase in robberies and muggings of elderly people in the vicinity of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House was the topic of discussion at a meeting at the Neighborhood House, 953 Deharo St., Friday night, July 17. For several hours about 100 people from all segments of the community discussed what should be done about this crime problem.

According to Lt. Robert McFarland, day watch lieutenant at the Potrero Police Station, the meeting was originally intended to be a gathering of representatives from the Molokans, the Neighborhood House and the police to discuss establishing additional programs for area youth. The intense concern over the recent assaults changed the character of the meeting.

In an open letter to the community the Russian Molokans charged that 16 attacks had been perpetrated against elderly people in recent

weeks. They said they "are now determined to rid the area of these hoodlums causing the trouble."

Al Jsrkieh, spokesman for the Molokans, explained the "crime wave" at Friday's meeting, whereupon several individuals, citing incidents, called for more police patrols. "Patrol the bus routes. That's where all these attacks occur," an older man cried.

Lt. McFarland said he would like to do just that, but did not have the manpower. He emphasized the importance of improved relations between youth and the police and cited a number of new programs for this purpose.

Earl Cruser, director of the Neighborhood House, urged people to be fair and open-minded and not to pin blame for the "crime wave" on the Neighborhood House.

Mike Fisher, a program supervisor at the Neighborhood House and chairman of the Africanos, said that the crimes were being committed by a group of approximately 10 youths. "For a couple of months we have been organizing a youth patrol which will help eliminate these attacks and will improve relations between youth and the rest of the community."

He believes this matter should be handled by the Neighborhood House and its staff, not by police officials.

Mike Harrison of the New Society Youth Club claimed that the increase in drug use was largely responsible for the recent attacks. He said putting more police on the street would not get to the root of the problem and urged people to support the Hill drug clinic proposal.

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THE POTRERO HILL MOB,
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in the hope that Potrero
Hill might come together.
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DO IT!

In bygone eras the small towns and big city neighborhoods of America were places where one could sink roots. Residents did not necessarily love one another, but they did accept individual idiosyncrasies as a matter of course. Despite personal differences, neighbors shared a sense of community which made it possible to take direct action for the general good. Without grants, subsidies or favors from government bureaucracies, people built roads, equipped hospitals and manned school houses.

No matter where a man traveled it was understood that home was a place where "when he came back they had to take him in." He was, therefore, always interested in the latest project and the final outcome.

Increased mobility, smaller families and a changing life style have cut most of us away from these roots. In the process we have become alienated from each other and from ourselves. Alone it is easy to convince ourselves that we are powerless to improve our collective lives. "You can't fight city hall."

Instead of attending the town meeting for the purpose of working out a program to solve a problem, we sit at home, watch the news on TV and complain about the politicians downtown who ignore our needs.

Often even the young, who are desperate for involvement, merely smoke grass and break windows, cynics long before their time, either resigned or angry.

Meanwhile the real fabric of all our lives is being woven by others who neither consult us nor care what we say.

Let's take control of our lives. Let's build a community.

Here on Potrero Hill there are 14,000 people of varied backgrounds and points of view who, nevertheless have many things in common and many things to gain from working together.

Our priorities may be different, but in the long run all of us share in the benefits of a direct bus route to Market Street, a neighborhood junior high school, a community drug treatment center or a mini-park with a view. We may never use the facilities directly but each time we contribute to the well being of one of our neighbors we enhance our common life.

If each of us gave a few hours a week to a neighborhood project of his choice, we would have enough muscle and brains to transform Potrero Hill into a model urban community.

There is a great deal which needs to be done. Gardeners, athletes, writers, organizers--all can help. Each could do his own thing and still contribute to the community. Perhaps the time has come to give it a try. Call the VIEW and let us know what skills you are willing to share.

Calendar

AUGUST, 1970

POTRERO HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE:

Movies, every Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m.; art classes, Monday through Friday. Both at 953 DeHaro St. Call 826-8080 for schedule.

POTRERO RECREATION CENTER:

Senior citizens meet Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Adult sewing classes are held Fridays at 9:30 a.m. Free movies are shown at 1:30 and 7 p.m. Fridays.

Other activities scheduled throughout the week at the Arkansas and 22nd St. Center.

NEW THANG CORPORATION:

Scriptures in Sound...jazz concerts will be held every Sunday from 3:30 to 7 p.m. beginning August 9 at the Julian Theater, 953 DeHaro Street. Donations will go to summer youth program.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH TEAM:

Every Thursday, 2 p.m. at the Little Red Door, 18th and Missouri Streets. For information contact New Thang, 826-7665.

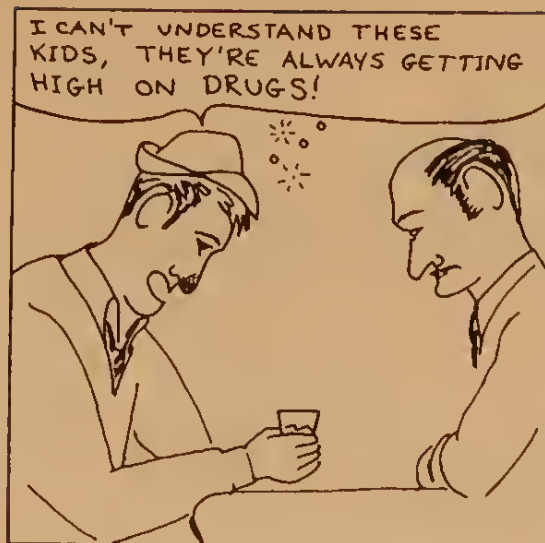
WELL BABY CLINIC:

2nd and 4th Thursdays at the Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St. 1st and 3rd Thursdays at the Housing Office, 1095 Connecticut St. Call for appointments.

SCHOOLS:

Registration for public schools begins August 31 and runs through September 4. Register at schools.

St. Teresa's registration is closed.



Hills and Dales

The human issue

Bill Dawson

In the last issue of "Hills and Dales" I implied that the Potrero Hill Boosters Association was in favor of the drug clinic proposal, which I have learned in the interim, is not true.

The Boosters made its stand quite clear in a meeting during which the drug clinic proposal was questioned. The Boosters made a whole-hearted effort to kill any chance of bringing the drug clinic into existence.

I had the frustrated feeling that the meeting was hopelessly one-sided until I heard the audience reaction, by applause, to the contrary. It appeared that many people shared my opinion as to the necessity of the drug clinic.

I received a copy of the "Small Voice," the Booster Association bulletin, and was appalled at the lengths to which it had gone to discredit the clinic.

The bulletin tried to minimize the humanitarian effort of Dr. George Roth and tried to convey a general attitude hostile to the drug clinic proposal by specifying that the audience was totally in favor of killing the proposal. This statement was not and is not true.

I would not care to have my wife walking the streets when an addict with a monkey on his back was loose in the vicinity, had no place to go, and was in desperate need of help.

The proposed clinic would give him a place to be treated, possibly rehabilitated.

The alternative would be to attack my wife,

or yours, to gain the funds necessary to obtain the drugs needed to ease his pain.

We can erase the drug blight from our neighborhood by facing up to it and doing something about it.

With the city's approval, something is being done and I can see no reason for dissent when it comes to helping human beings adjust to a problem either physical or mental.

The clinic protestors seem to place monetary values above human need.

We have enough apathy in the world today, we need not add to it. I fully realize the necessity of money to exist, but there has to be a point where we will all take inventory and decide what is more important, our self-respect or our pocketbook.

As we sit in our cozy living rooms enjoying a little T.V. after the evening meal, some poor unfortunate boy, or girl, is roaming the streets with no place to go, forced to depend on their wits to exist.

Some of these children began using drugs as an escape mechanism by which they could, even for a little while, release themselves from the bondage of an overwhelming environment and eventually put themselves into an even greater bondage, the slavish dependency of an addict.

We must not forget that we are working with the future generation and if we turn our backs on them, they may in the years to come, turn their backs on us.

"We will reap what we sow".

A view from here

A pound of cure

Ralph O'Toole

An ounce of prevention may not be worth a pound of cured opium when one plays the drug market, but for those who rate their stock in society on the basis of human returns the old adage still pays dividends. Consequently, one would hope that any plans for a Potrero Hill drug clinic would include provisions for preventative counseling.

While estimates of the extent of hardcore drug addiction among Potrero residents varies, it is virtually certain that experimentation with various forms of narcotics is going on among our young people.

The odds are 100 to one against finding anyone on the Hill between the ages of 18 and 25 who has not at least tried some kind of drug. Even among 13 and 14-year olds chances of eschewing narcotics totally are no better than 50-50.

Most of these youngsters will never become addicts, but they are in need of counseling. The teeny-bopper who raps knowingly about reds and Christmas trees, Acapulco gold and hash usually has very little real experience or sound facts to back him up.

It does not really occur to him that the mild buzz he gets from smoking a joint is radically different from the hallucinatory jolt he would undergo in the unlikely event he ever got his hands on bona fide hash hish. He determines his pill capacity in accord with schoolyard supply norms, not on the basis of grains and grades.

If adult members of the underworld who have been confirmed addicts for years are

subject to death by overdose because they cannot accurately gauge the strength of their accustomed dosage, one can hardly expect teen-agers to travel the drug path in safety.

Parents are relatively useless as sources of comfort and information in drug matters because most have too little experience with the problem and too much concern with the protection of their offspring. School courses in drug abuse are about as effective as old fashioned lectures on deamon rum since they are inevitably laced with moral platitudes and middle class myths.

The youngster who finds himself strung out by the after effects of amphetamine is not going to turn himself into San Francisco General Hospital to ask for a tranquilizer because he is afraid of government forms, nosy social workers, police investigation and emotional turmoil on the homefront.

If a boy's date passes out on sleeping pills, he is liable to flee the scene rather than bring her home to mother or call on a police officer for help. He might, however, broach the problem with an ex-addict in a drop-in neighborhood drug clinic.

Such a clinic should not only provide emergency help, it should also be in a position to explain what has happened, and offer counsel which would prevent a repetition of the incident.

At present there is nowhere a youngster can get drug use counseling which is accurate and pragmatic.



The Brotherhood

Kids dig live band at Brotherhood festival

Social action unit

The Potrero Hill Brotherhood held its second summer festival Saturday, July 25. Over 600 kids from all over the Hill gathered at the Starr King School yard at Wisconsin and Connecticut streets, consumed hamburgers and hotdogs and enjoyed the music from two live bands.

The high point of the day was the raffle for a new 14 inch portable color T.V. set. The lucky winner was Mrs. Lena Carmena of 1029 Shrader St., San Francisco. Proceeds from the raffle will provide for future community improvement programs.

The Brotherhood, accord-

ing to Leroy Starks, chairman of the organization, is "the only real service organization here on the Hill, here to serve everyone, rich, poor, black, white or brown, in any way we can."

The Brotherhood was formed in April of this year. "We all belonged to other groups but all they were doing was having meetings and talking instead of really getting down and doing things," explained Paulette Mearday, secretary of the Brotherhood. "We started our own group so we could get something done for a change. First we had a few social events and

then got down to serious things," she added.

Through the U.S. Department of Agriculture the Brotherhood was able to get a local grocery store to accept food stamps.

They have organized crews to clean up parking lots and other public areas of the Housing Project.

A committee was set up to represent Housing Project residents to the San Francisco Housing Authority, to facilitate action on their requests and complaints.

Another committee is participating in the consultations concerning the future use of the Wisconsin Site, which has stood vacant since the temporary war housing there was torn down.

In the meantime the Brotherhood is developing a mini-park on a portion of the site.

Currently serving as chairman of the Brotherhood is Leroy Starks, who is assisted by David MacShate, vice chairman, and Milton Toles, treasurer.

The group meets every Monday night at 7:30 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro. Community participation is invited.

Teen group kicks off car wash

If your car could use a soaping up and hosing down, bring it to the Richfield Service Station, 2690 Third St., Sunday, Aug. 9, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Station owner Wally Tom is offering the use of his premises to members of the St. Teresa's Teen Club, who will be on hand to shine up your vehicle.

Club president Hal Taft points out that 100 percent of the proceeds from the 99-cent car wash service will be donated to St. Teresa teens.

Tom, a native San Franciscan and member of the Lions Club, said the youngsters may set up their car wash service any Sunday they wish.

For future car-wash dates and times, call teen club program chairman Norman Gomez, 282-3904.

Plant



a tree

Plans are in the works for converting the vacant lot at the corner of DeHaro and Southern Heights into a mini-park.

A committee from the Residents and Homeowners Council, headed by Brad Coles, submitted a proposal to the Council at its July meeting.

The unanimously approved plan includes trees and shrubs, a kiosk for neighborhood announcements, benches and a permanent checker board table.

Work is in the preliminary stages, so more ideas are welcome.

Around the hill

voter drive

A voter registration drive was begun by Olivett Presbyterian Church during July in order to get everyone on the Hill registered to vote.

State Assemblyman John Burton helped kick off the campaign at a "Happening" at Olivett Presbyterian Church on July 12.

On August 8 and 9 registrars will go house to house throughout the Hill.

Expressing the importance of this campaign, Mrs. Enola Maxwell, lay minister of the church, said that anyone missed by the canvas or unable to get to a place of registration may call 647-1315, and a registrar will be sent.

Mary Kay McFall will also be available at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro Street.

Another "Happening" is planned for August, though no date has yet been set.

camp

The Police Community Relations of Potrero Hill is working with the U.S. Marine Corps to give disadvantaged boys, ages 13 to 15, an opportunity to go to camp this summer. Potrero Hill can send 40 boys to be chosen from names submitted by the various organizations on the Hill.

Review

Last chance for laughs

Tonight is your last chance to see the Julian Theatre's latest production, "A,B,C,D; Four Different Comedies." All written by Edward R. Weingold and directed by him and his wife, Alma Weingold, the four one act comedies certainly deliver the variety promised on the bill.

The four pieces run the gamut from black humor to simple situation comedy to social satire. The most effective of the four is "Charlie-Maze," which moves along like a grotesque joke.

Weingold leads the audience, which identifies with Charles, a straight forward sincere guy played by Howard McMaster, into a world where yes is no, where treachery is expected any moment, where one's perceptions don't correspond with those of the others.

At the end it turns out that Charles has been fooling us right along with the other players, and our uneasiness dissolves into light hearted relief.

In "Pigskin: a Political Football," the main feature of the evening, Weingold falls back on a predictable but usually effective comic form, satire of the current establishment. While it draws the most laughs--people will always laugh at Nixon, sex and the machinations of the military mind--it shows the least original use of language and situation of the four.

Highly political theatre comes off much better in the streets in the midst of rallies and demonstrations. Alma Weingold, in directing "Pigskin," attempts to overcome the limitations of the closed setting by using the entire theatre as a stage. Players scurry up and down the aisles, the audience is in the midst of the action.

Nevertheless guerrilla

theatre, and that is what "Pigskin" is, does not work well in static, enclosed space. The play is partisan and should be done in the middle of a partisan struggle, in the streets.

"Day of Absence" which played at the Julian earlier this summer will be re-run later this month. A reverse minstrel show, the play is about a small southern town which overnight loses its black population. The production received very good reviews in the daily press. Watch for the Julian's billboard at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House.

From the library

There are all kinds of materials on drugs and narcotics -- books, magazine articles, and pamphlets. Of special interest are the following:

- "The Junkie Priest," by John D. Harris,
- "The Pleasure Seekers," by San Francisco's Dr. Joel Fort,
- "The Therapeutic Nightmare," by Morton Mintz,
- "The Beyond Within, the LSD Story," by Sidney Cohen,
- "Drugs for Young People, Their Use and Misuse," by Kenneth Leech,
- "The Tunnel Back," by Lewis Yablonsky,
- "The Drug Dilemma," by Sidney Cohen, and
- "Synanon," by Guy Endore.

For a more complete listing, and for further information about magazines and pamphlets, come into the branch or call us at 558-3363.

Audrey R. Wood
Branch Librarian



Teen club members (l to r), Hal Taft, Patrick Curley, Bruce Glavez, Johnny Estebez, Christina Alvarado, Tony Horton and David Esponzoza, give customer a good scrub.

Clinic director's credentials cited

Dr. George Joseph Roth, elected volunteer medical director of the proposed Potrero Hill drug clinic, has been practicing medicine on the Hill for nine years.

A graduate of Harvard and Columbia University Medical School, Dr. Roth is now co-director of the Mount Zion Hospital adolescent

clinic. He also teaches family medicine at the University of California Medical Center.

In 1964 and 1965 Dr. Roth served on the medical team of the hospital ship, "Hope." His first three-month tour of duty took him to the village of Guayaquilo in Ecuador, the second to Africa and Guinea.

Subsequently he has made three trips to Vietnam to select war injured children to be brought back to the United States for treatment. The latest visit was made this year under the auspices of the Committee for Responsibility.

Dr. Roth says he first became aware of drug addiction problems among youngsters through his work at Mount Zion. He, personally, has treated some 50 Hill addicts. However, he claims it is not possible to "cure" addicts because no long-term treatment facility is available to offer extended counseling. "The medical aid drug users receive in an institutional setting such as San Francisco General Hospital is neither personal nor supportive enough to solve the real problem," he said.

The doctor resides in Marin County with his wife, Ann, and his son, Joshua.



Father Peter Sammon

St. Teresa welcomes new pastor

On July 1, Father Peter Sammon became the new pastor at Saint Teresa's Church, succeeding Father Harold O'Day who moved as pastor to Saint Leo's Church in San Jose.

A native San Franciscan, Father Sammon was born and reared in the Mission District. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1947.

He first served as assistant pastor at Saint Catherine's Church in Martinez and then attended graduate school at the Catholic University, Washington, D.C. where he received his Master's Degree in History in 1951.

From 1951 to 1964 he was at Serra High School, San Mateo, where he taught and later headed the counseling department. During that time he was appointed Family Life Director for the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

For the last six years he has been chaplain of the Newman Center at San Francisco State College.

With his background in teaching, counseling, family life and finally with college students at San Francisco State, Father Sammon brings a varied experience to his present responsibilities.



Dr. George Roth

Molokans victimized by assaults

Jim Green, a social worker on the Hill, pointed out that the crime problem was not limited to the Neighborhood House sres of the Molokans.

"For some time there has been a high incidence of crime in the housing project. Nobody is safe on the streets," he said. Many concurred.

Cruzer assured the audience that he and his staff would increase their supervision of the Neighborhood House and the surrounding area. He warned however, that the Neighborhood House would be destroyed if it became in the eyes of the youth who use it an "arm of the police department." He added that the Neighborhood House would endeavor to provide legal aid to youths accused of crimes.

A number of speakers expressed satisfaction with the meeting because it brought two very different segments of the community together to discuss a common problem. Elaine Sundahl of the Residents and Homeowners Association said, "It was a good meeting, an awkward but well meant effort to communicate."

Addict asks for long-term help

When the need isn't met, Bill suffers the physical symptoms of withdrawal. Yet he claims he can sweat it out for a few hours and pull himself together enough to show up for work. He has held his present job three years.

The last time his habit got "outside my payoheck" he went down to the Center for Special Problems which referred him to San Francisco General Hospital's detoxification program.

Once released he went back to heroin, as he has over a nine year period which has taken him in and out of various hospitals and drug-clinics.

Bill had his first toke at 13. At the time, he said he was an aggressive kid, used to being on his own, always in and out of juvenile for petty theft.

At 17, after a stint in Log Cabin, he decided he was going to become a "straight, clean American boy." "I went down to LA and lived with my mother," Bill explained. "I stayed clean for over a year and a half, but there was nothing happening down there. It was like being half dead."

Back in San Francisco he resumed petty thievery and drug experimentation until he joined the Air Force where he spent the next four years.

In the service Bill took to drinking heavily. He was discharged during the peak of the methadone movement.

"Lots of doctors would let you have a prescription for the stuff for \$10. And the druggists, who knew what was going on, didn't seem to care," Bill said. "I made my living by dealing in methadone and grass."

"When methadone was outlawed I tried barbiturates, but they were nowhere. I had tried smack once or twice before. Now I tried it again and though I didn't really like it, there was something there--some kind of high."

At first Bill used heroin only once or twice a week. By the end of a year he had a

\$20 a day habit going.

"Lster I met this girl who contacted me to buy some stuff. Even though I fell in love with her, I needed money bad and got her a job as a call girl. She and I used to take drugs together once in a while, but she didn't know how hooked I was. She thought I was putting her money in the bank. But I was spending up to \$250 a day to support a growing heroin habit."

"We split to Mexico in 1965 and I tried to kick my habit for good but got so sick I couldn't make it. Back here I leveled with her and she took off. Said she couldn't trust me. But shortly thereafter she started shooting heavily.

Lonely, guilty, depressed Bill made a few suicide attempts. To get off heroin he tried Percadan and speed, pulling stick-ups to keep going.

"I'm uptight about stealing because I am really scared of going to prison for 10 years or something," Bill said.

He was out of money, out of friends and out of drugs when he heard his ex-girl was in Synanon. He followed suit and stayed 18 months.

"When I left it was partly because of the strain building up between the girl and me and partly because of my communication problems with the group," he said. "I went back on smack almost immediately."

But he did find a job which seems to provide some kind of emotional anchor. He does not like being a junkie, nor does he know a single happy or satisfied addict.

"It's just there's no place to go that provides the right kind of follow-up. Synanon is okay if you stay in it and live there. Outside you need something to keep you going."

Bill has heard about the methadone program and thinks he could kick again, maybe for good, if he could get involved in one. But there's no program in this city.

Bill shook his head. Tomorrow promised to be a tough day. "Man, I hope something happens soon."

Statistics confuse issue

experience with the drug problem, feels there is immediate need for a methadone treatment center on the Hill. He said, "Many more kids are 'nick-nacking' (experimenting) these days," and the number of addicts can only increase.

"The increase in heroin addiction runs in cycles," Harrison explained. "A pusher will make small quantities widely available at low prices until kids pass from the 'nick-nacking' stage, then he ups his prices, and you have a sudden increase in the number of addicts with a \$50 a day habit."

The irregular quality of the heroin available is largely responsible for deaths due to overdose. According to the city's Coroner's office 24 O. D.s were recorded in the city since January 1. Dr. Gil Weisman of San Francisco General Hospital stated that four of those are reported to have occurred on the Hill.

Police arrest statistics provide no real idea of the scope of the problem. From January through April 54 drug arrests were reported for Potrero Hill. However Lt. Clement D. DeAmicis, head

of the narcotics detail of the S. F. Police Department, warned that this statistic means very little to someone trying to judge the amount of drug use on Potrero Hill.

Records show the location of arrest, not residence. Someone living in the Richmond District arrested on the Hill would be included in the 54, though he may have just been passing through the area at the time of his arrest. It is almost impossible to establish the residence of persons arrested since many give false addresses or simply have no permanent residence.

The 54 arrests statistic fails to show arrests which relate to Potrero Hill, but which occur in other areas. For example, in the Park District a large amount of drugs was seized and arrests made. The drugs were destined for the Hill, but the matter appears in the Park District records.

Included in the 54 arrests is everything from possession of a single marijuana cigarette to large amounts of heroin. Someone arrested with heroin may not be an addict; he may just be "nick-nacking."

If the drug problem is taken to include more than heroin users, its scope and character become even more hazy. People concerned with the problem on the Hill focus their attention on heroin use, the most serious aspect of the problem. But indications are that among many young people in junior high and even grammar school speed, reds, and grass are common. Sleeping, dist, and other pills are "popped" indiscriminately.

Extended use or overdoses of barbiturates and amphetamines can disable or kill, and while marijuana is relatively harmless in itself, kids turn to worse things when it gets scarce.

Lt. DeAmicis suggested an approach which could give a better idea of the extent of drug use. It involved tracing use from arrestees to dealers and from there to more users and their friends who use. This information could then be crossed with treatment figures and the like. Presumably this could be done for any drug, though difficulties in gaining such information appear insurmountable.

However, since the vote at last Tuesday's meeting was a close one it is still possible that the mobile clinic proposal will be resurrected.

Some neighborhood leaders are convinced that the red tape obstacle can be overcome in a couple of months and that the delay might be worthwhile in order to avoid the remote Third Street location and to connect the clinic more closely with the neighborhood.

Dr. George Roth, volunteer clinic medical director, said the location is less important than the services offered.

San Francisco General Hospital does not provide long-term treatment for addicts, and Dr. Roth feels the clinic program is so needed that Hill addicts who want help will use the facility regardless of where in the district it happens to be situated.

When the drug clinic was first proposed a site committee was formed to find a suitable location. The store front clinic notion was rejected early because available quarters were either too close to schools or too small. It was also discovered that efforts to locate the clinic in a residential section would be subject to zoning restrictions and residents' complaints.

A seemingly suitable space was found for rent at 1400 16th Street in the industrial section, but during the course of negotiations for the lease the property became unavailable.

The building manager excused his change of mood by saying the present tenant wanted to enlarge his plant. At press time the space still carried a for rent sign.

When discussions about the 16th Street site were underway the executive board of the Potrero Boosters and Merchants Association passed a resolution stating its opposition to any neighborhood clinic.

The board argued that San Francisco General, which is easily accessible to the Hill, would be the logical place for an experimental drug treatment center.

It also questioned the advisability of employing ex-addicts or any non-professionals to work with addicts and suggested such people might not be qualified to handle sensitive juvenile problems.

Clinic supporters counter that ex-addicts are the very people who are best equipped to set up lines of communication with drug users. They claim that an institutionalized setting, such as San Francisco General, discourages addicts from seeking help.